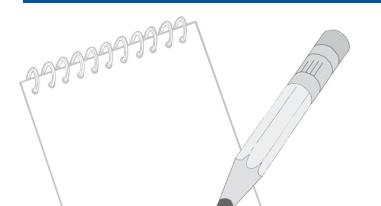
59th Annual ABILITY COUNTS

JOURNALISM SCHOLARSHIP



Guide for teachers of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students

"Workers with Disabilities:

America's People, America's Talent ...

America's Strength!"



DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2009

Ability Counts Journalism Scholarship

GUIDELINES

The purpose of this competition is to reward excellence in journalistic writing and to help young Alabamians become aware of the talents that people with disabilities bring to the job market. This year's theme is "Workers with Disabilities: America's People, America's Talent ... America's Strength!"

Preparation ____

Articles must:

- be written in English,
- cover some phase of the theme,
- be typewritten, double-spaced on 81/2-x-11 inch paper,
- not exceed three pages in length,
- be accompanied by a separate, attached cover sheet.

A sample cover sheet is attached. It may be photocopied as necessary. Articles that do not adhere to the above criteria will not be accepted.

Deadline ____

The deadline is January 30, 2009.

Mail Entries

Ability Counts Journalism Scholarship Program Alabama Governor's Committee Denise Holmes 602 S. Lawrence St. Montgomery, AL 36104

Fax Entries

(334) 293-7384

Email Entries

Send entries as a text or Microsoft Word document attachment (include cover sheet information) to denise.holmes@rehab.alabama.gov.

Prizes _____

1st Place - \$300

2nd Place - \$250

3rd Place - \$200

4th Place - \$150

5th Place - \$100

Winners will each also receive a Certificate of Merit from the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Each teacher of a winning student will receive a Certificate of Meritorious Service. State winners and their teachers will be invited to attend an **Awards Luncheon** in Montgomery in the spring.

Judging _____

This is a community reporting project; therefore, the judges will give considerable weight to each entrant's initiative in obtaining information through personal interviews and observations. Each article also will be judged on content, organization, clarity of expression, neatness, familiarity with disability issues, and use of sensitive language in describing people with disabilities.

Ability Counts Journalism Scholarship

LANGUAGE TIPS*



Say "wheelchair user" rather than "confined to a wheelchair" or "wheelchair bound." The wheelchair is what enables the person to get around and participate in society; it's liberating, not confining.

It's OK to use idiomatic expressions when talking to people with disabilities. For example, saying, "It was good to see you" and "See you later" to a person who is blind is completely acceptable. They use these expressions themselves all the time!

Many people who are Deaf communicate with sign language and consider themselves to be members of a cultural and linguistic minority. They refer to themselves as Deaf with a capital "D" and may be offended by the term "hearing impaired."

PUT THE PERSON FIRST.

Say "person with a disability" rather than "disabled person." Say "people with disabilities" rather than "the disabled." For specific disabilities, saying "person with Tourette Syndrome" or "person who has cerebral palsy" is usually a safe bet. Still, individuals have their own preferences. If you are not sure what words to use, ask.

Avoid outdated terms like "handicapped" or "crippled." Be aware that many people with disabilities dislike jargony, euphemistic terms like "physically challenged" and "differently abled."

Use "hard of hearing" to refer to people who have hearing loss but communicate in spoken language. With any disability, avoid negative, disempowering words like "victim" or "suffered." Say "person with AIDS," instead of "AIDS victim" or "one who suffers from AIDS."

Note: You want to think of people who have a disability as individuals, your friends, your coworkers, your neighbors – rather than using the generic term "they" for people with disabilities.

*Source: "Disability Etiquette," a publication of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Assoation

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Cover Sheet



PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

STUDENT INFORMATION Student's name: _____ Grade: _____ Social security number: ____ Home address: ____ City/state/zip code:_____ Telephone number: _____ Email address: _____ SCHOOL INFORMATION School's name: Address: ____ City/state/zip code: _____ Telephone number: _____ Name of principal: _____ Name of teacher: Teacher's signature:_____ Email address:

DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2009